AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for speech synthesis, said method implemented on a handheld device and comprising:

receiving a spoken utterance <u>including at least one of a command to be executed by the handheld device and a name to be dialed by the handheld device</u>;

<u>in response to receiving the spoken utterance:</u>

extracting one or more prosodic parameters from the spoken utterance;

performing speech recognition on the spoken utterance to generate a recognized word;

from the recognized word that is generated from the speech recognition, synthesizing a nominal word; ~~and~~

generating a prosodic mimic word from the synthesized nominal word and the extracted one or more prosodic parameters, wherein generating the prosodic mimic also involves temporally aligning the synthesized nominal word with the spoken utterance<u>; and</u>

<u>if the recognized word includes the command, executing the command on the handheld device, and if the recognized word includes the name, dialing a number corresponding to the name.</u>

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more prosodic parameters include pitch.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more prosodic parameters include timing.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more prosodic parameters include energy.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising temporally aligning phones of the spoken utterance and phones of the nominal word.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the prosodic mimic word into a corresponding audio signal.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the spoken utterance is received by a telephone input device and the prosodic mimic word is provided to a telephone output device.

9. (Currently Amended) A handheld system for speech synthesis, said system comprising:

an audio input device capable of receiving that receives a spoken utterance including at least one of a command to be executed by the handheld system and a name to be dialed by the handheld system;

a signal processor that, in response to receiving the spoken utterance, determines one or more prosodic parameters of the spoken utterance;

a speech recognizer that, in response to receiving the spoken utterance, recognizes the spoken utterance and generates a corresponding recognized word;

a speech synthesizer that synthesizes a nominal word from the recognized word; and

a prosodic mimic generator that receives the synthesized nominal word and the one or more prosodic parameters and generates a prosodic mimic word therefrom, said prosodic mimic generator also temporally aligning the prosodic mimic word with the spoken utterance, and

3

a processor that, if the recognized word includes the command, executes the command, and, if the recognized word includes the name to be dialed, dials a number corresponding to the name.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the system is disposed on a mobile telephone device.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, further comprising a storage device including executable instructions for speech analysis and processing.

13. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the command is any one of a plurality of available commands.